

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) will serve as chairman at the Joint Economic Committee's (JEC) hearing tomorrow, Friday, June 6, 2008 at 9:30am in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The hearing will address the May 2008 employment situation with a particular focus on the impact the economy is having on women.

"I am very much looking forward to leading the discussion on the reasons behind the dramatic economic decline in this country and the ways in which we can get this economy growing again and assist those who have been adversely affected by the loss of jobs," Hinchey said. "The opportunity to serve as chairman for this hearing provides me with a good opportunity to help focus attention on the disastrous economic policies of the Bush administration that have resulted in a loss of jobs, the devaluation of the dollar, soaring gas prices, increased debt, a mortgage crisis, and a variety of other consequences."

The hearing will consist of two panels. Mr. Philip L. Rones, Deputy Commissioner for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will be the only member of the first panel and the second panel will feature Dr. Heidi Hartmann, President of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, Dr. Eileen Appelbaum, Director of the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers University, and Ms. Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Director of the Center for Employment Policy and Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute.

On the first Friday of each month, the BLS releases the prior month's data on U.S. employment and earnings from two surveys; a survey of households and a survey of business establishments' payrolls. Job growth in May is expected to be weak. The economy has lost a total of 260,000 jobs in the first four months of this year. Hinchey will lead the JEC in questioning the panelists on steps Congress can take to help create jobs and help those who have been unable to find employment despite repeated, long-term efforts to do so. The panelists are expected to describe how women are being adversely impacted by the country's economic woes.

The JEC was established by the Employment Act of 1946 with the main purpose of conducting a continuing study of matters relating to the U.S. economy. The panel is composed of ten senators and ten House members. The committee holds hearings, performs research, and advises other members of Congress on the economy.